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REMARKS

I. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claim 84 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Hall et al. (6,652,517). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Figure 1 of Hall is characterized as showing a basic ablation catheter system, which would inherently perform the method. However, Hall fails to disclose a catheter body having proximal, intermediate, and distal portions. The office action fails to indicate where such features are disclosed in Hall. Accordingly, Hall cannot anticipate nor render obvious the subject matter of claim 84.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 66-73, 75-83, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall et al. (6,652,517) in view of Phan et al. (6,529,756). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Hall is relied upon as disclosing the basis catheter system. The indication is that the feature absent from Hall is a porous wall providing conductive fluid to the exterior surface of the ablation section. However, claim 66 is not so limited.

As already identified, Hall fails to disclose a catheter body having proximal, intermediate, and distal portions. The office action fails to indicate where such features are disclosed in Hall. Accordingly, Hall cannot provide the base reference with which to combine Phan to result in a viable obviousness rejection. The combination of Hall and Phan fails to result in a structure having all the features set forth in claim 66. It follows, of course, that the rejections of the dependent claims, which also rely upon Hall, are similarly in error.

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III. Conclusion

The reliance upon Hall in the stated rejections is without basis. Accordingly, each of the rejections should be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the claims are in proper form and condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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